

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OPR-02 AID-20 AGR-20 RSR-01 /169 W

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R 101446Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IN

SUECJ: LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 9016

SUMMARY: NO DEATHS DURING DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SINCE REFTEL SUBMISSION, ZST#ORGANIZED DISTURBANCES SPREAD TO NEW AREAS LAST WEEK. THE PRIMARY SPUR WAS THE PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST (CPI) WEEK-LONG FOODGRAIN "DE-HOARDING" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AUGUST 1; CONTINUED STRIKES BY LIMITED GROUPS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AND BY THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT TURNED VIOLENT IN A FEW TOWNS. END SUMMARY

1. THE CPI "DE-HOARDING" CAMPAIGN INVOLVED ORGANIZED COERCION OF TRADERS IN BASIC CONSUMER COMMODITIES AND PROCESSIONS WHICH CHALLENGED THE POLICE FORCES IN URBAN AREAS OF MOST STATES, NOTABLY MAHARASHTRA, UTTAR PRADESH
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(UP), MADHYA PRADESH, ASSAM, ANDHRA PRADESH, AND DELHI.

OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE JOINED THE BANDWAGON AS WELL. THE DEMONSTRATORS FORCED TRADERS TO SELL FOODGRAINS, SUGAR, COOKING OIL, AND OTHER DAILY NECESSITIES AT REDUCED PRICES. SOME LOOTING WAS REPORTED. VIOLENCE WAS REPORTED FROM AGRA (UP), BANGALORE AND HUBLI (MYSORE), VIJAYAWADA (ANDHRA PRADESH), INDORE, BHOPAL AND UJJAIN (MADHYA PRADESH), AND IMPHAL (MANIPUR). ARMED PERSONNEL OF THE BORDER SECURITY FORCE WERE REQUIRED TO RESTORE ORDER IN INDORE. ARMED POLICE HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN SOME SCARCITY-AFFECTED AREAS, SUCH AS EASTERN UP, TO PREVENT OR CONTAIN VIOLENCE.

2. POLICE WIELDING LATHIS (WEIGHTED STAFFS) CHARGED A CROWD OF STRIKING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES AT TUNDLA, AN IMPORTANT RAIL JUNCTION IN SOUTHWESTERN UP. IN RAJASTHAN, THEY LATHI-CHARGED STRIKING STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AT BHARATPUR, BANSWARA, JAISALMER, AND JODHPUR. STRIKING RAIL AND ELECTRIC POWER WORKERS, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE ENGAGED IN SABOTAGE AND MOB VIOLENCE.

3. PRESEVREPORTS AUGUST 3 DRAWN FROM "RELIABLE SOURCES" SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LIFT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAIMED DURING THE 1971 INDO-PAK WAR, ARGUING THAT THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SITUATION REQUIRED THAT THE GOVERNMENT RETAIN ITS EMERGENCY POWERS. THE GOVERNMENT IS REPORTEDLY CONFIDENT THAT ITS SECURITY FORCES CAN CONTAIN SPORADIC VIOLENCE ARISING FROM INFLATION, SCARCITY, AND OTHER CAUSES.

4. NOTE: OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN INDIA WILL RISE AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER, WHEN THE FOODGRAIN SITUATION MAY BEGIN TO EASE. SOME PREDICT THAT WIDESPREAD BUT QUICKLY-CONTAINED DISTURBANCES WILL CONTINUE WELL INTO NOVEMBER.
MOYNIHAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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